

Ollie Play Writing Course

COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To set up a 'writers' workshop' in which we learn and use the basic elements of playwriting to facilitate everyone's writing of a successful scene or short play. As in other writers' workshops, helpful but frank encouragement, praise and criticism by everyone is expected to be the single most important element in the success of the workshop.

BASIC STRUCTURE

There will be written assignments to be shared with class members. In the first half of the course, sessions will be made up of writing exercises and discussion. The second half will be made up of 'readings,' or 'workshops' and discussion of drafts of your work.

For each workshop after the introduction you will be 'paired' with another writer or two. You will be expected to help each other by reading and talking through problems with the written assignments. Although all written work is to be expected to be shared with everyone, one's responsibilities will be toward the writers you are assigned to for the week.

REQUIRED of all participants:

TEXTS:

1. The Playwright's Workbook (Applause Books) by Jean-Claude Van Italie [Paperback available new for about \$17 on Amazon, etc.]
2. The Playwright's Guidebook: An Insightful Primer on the Art of Dramatic Writing Paperback – by Stuart Spencer [available new for about \$18.50]
3. **PDF PACKETS SENT TO ALL**

OTHER WRITER RESPONSIBILITIES include: to Carry a pencil or pen and small notebook as you go about in public spaces to record interesting bits or notes about of conversation.

TEACHER BIO

Since retiring, I've written and published plays, stories, essays, & poems. Some won prizes. See: <https://joeaoppenheimer.wixsite.com/my-site> & also <http://www.gvptsites.umd.edu/oppenheimer/>. Before that I was a prof at Texas & UMd, College Park. There I taught poli-sci, econ, public policy & philosophy. I won many teaching awards.

D2: Wednesday, January 11, 2023